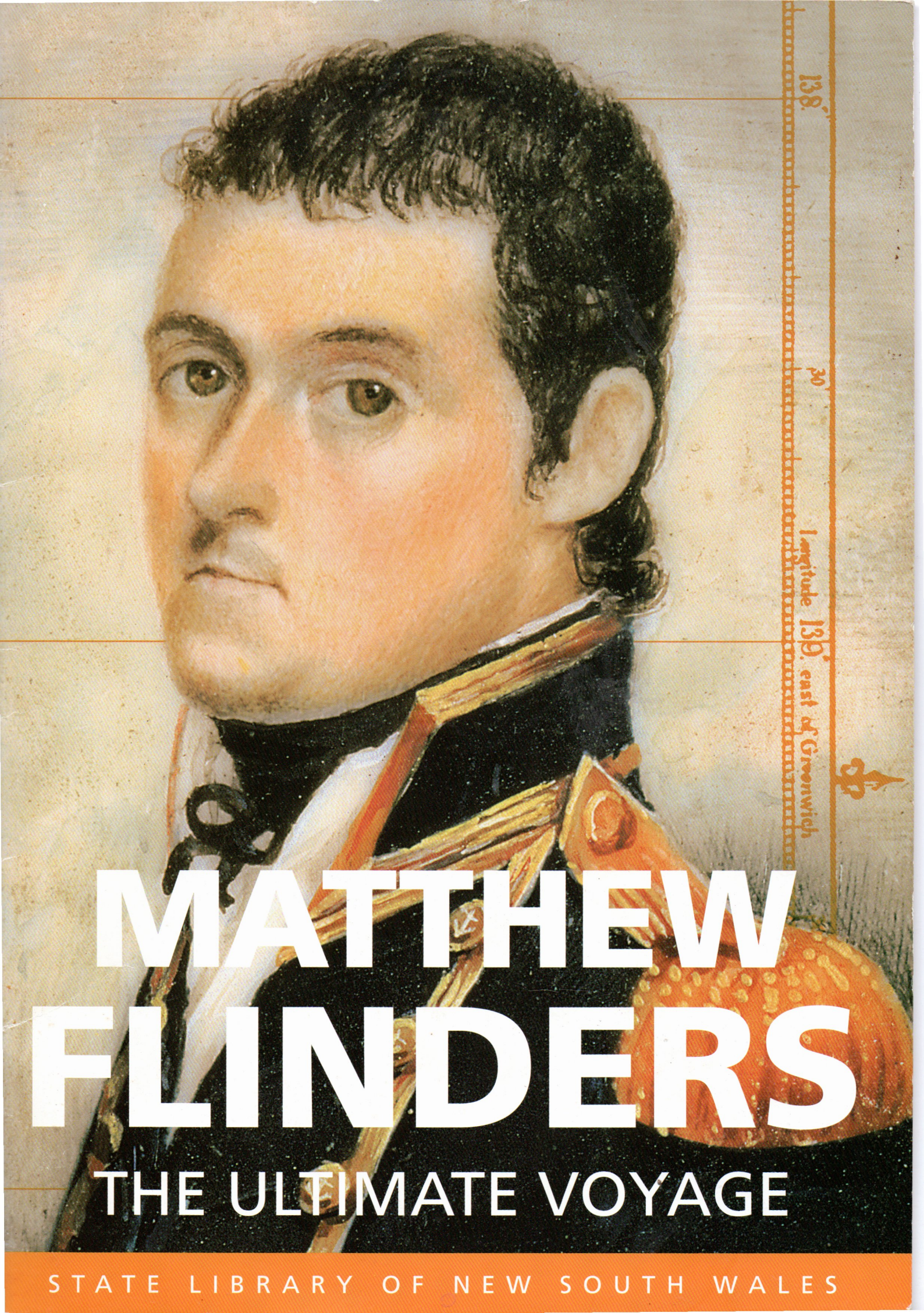

MATTHEW FLINDERS

THE ULTIMATE VOYAGE

STATE LIBRARY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Foreword

The State Library of New South Wales is proud to present the national touring exhibition *Matthew Flinders: The Ultimate Voyage* to commemorate the bicentenary of Flinders' epic voyage of exploration and discovery around the Australian coasts in HMS *Investigator* in 1801-1803.

Flinders compiled the first complete chart of the continent, he advocated the use of the name 'Australia', and with George Bass, proved that Tasmania was an island. The story of Flinders' exploits and achievements as a navigator is one of the great tales of Australian history and part of our national heritage.

The State Library holds the world's most comprehensive collection of material relating to Flinders. The core of the collection, consisting of personal papers, diaries, letter books, charts and memorabilia, was presented to the Library by Flinders' grandson, Sir William Matthew Flinders Petrie in 1922. This great donation has been supplemented by further acquisitions since then, notably the Bass-Waterhouse papers in 1998.

The State Library is extremely grateful to lenders to the exhibition: Lisette Flinders Petrie (UK); Edward King House, Lincoln (UK); National Maritime Museum, Greenwich (UK); Public Record Office (UK); Natural History Museum, London; UK Hydrographic Office, Taunton; Naval Museum, Mauritius; Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Le Havre (France); Powerhouse Museum, Sydney; Art Gallery of South Australia; State Library of Victoria; Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney.

The Library acknowledges with gratitude the generous support of our presenting sponsor, *The Australian*. Channel 7, Singapore Airlines, the Gordon Darling Foundation, the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, the Royal Australian Navy and Mr and Mrs E. P. T. Simpson have all provided generous support to the project. Mr James Fairfax AO has been a notable benefactor to the Library's website for the Flinders' archive. The Australian Government's Visions of Australia funding has enabled the national tour of the exhibition and we are most grateful to Mr Peter Willcox for his assistance with the exhibition catalogue.

I would especially like to thank members of Crewing for Flinders, the Library's friends and supporters group for the exhibition, who have contributed enthusiastically to the project from the beginning.

Finally, I would like to thank the staff of the State Library who have worked so hard to ensure the success of *Matthew Flinders: The Ultimate Voyage*.

Dagmar Schmidmaier
State Librarian & Chief Executive

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Introduction

When we look at the map of Australia, we are looking at Matthew Flinders' memorial. He defined the outline, suggested the name, and personalised the resulting chart by adding hundreds of place names associated with his own life. No other national map is so intimately bound up with the life of one individual.

Matthew Flinders (1774-1814) proved that Tasmania was an island and produced its first map. He traced the coasts of the Australian continent, proving that the east, New South Wales, was the same landmass as the west, New Holland.

He was the first to use 'Australian' to describe the inhabitants of this land and the first to use the word in a place name (the Great Australian Bight). He also splattered the map with the names of those who had assisted him; those who could still be of service; those who sailed with him and family and friends. However, he named nothing after himself and where 'Flinders' appears on the map today it is because others have honoured him.

His life was one of high professional achievement balanced by bitter personal tragedy. His detention by the French on Mauritius for six and a half years separated him from his wife, Ann, delayed the publication of his charts, and effectively finished his career at the age of 29. He died a painful death at the age of 40.

***Portrait of Matthew Flinders*. Unknown artist, 1801. Watercolour on ivory. Retained by Ann Flinders when Matthew left England on *Investigator* in July 1801.**

Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales (ZML MIN 52)
Presented by Sir William Flinders Petrie, 1922

Matthew Flinders' dress sword and scabbard from Naval Commander's full dress uniform, c.1800, made by Gibbens of Portsmouth. Steel with ivory and gold hand piece and gold scabbard.

Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales (ZML LR7)
Presented by Sir William Flinders Petrie, 1922

1774-1790, aged to 16

A Lincolnshire childhood

Matthew Flinders was born in Lincolnshire on 16 March 1774 at the market town of Donington. He was the eldest child of Matthew Flinders, surgeon-apothecary, and his wife, Susannah (née Ward).

Two abiding concerns ran through his life. He wanted to be rich — or at least comfortable — and he wanted to be famous. His family was not wealthy and his father complained of his own lack of money and of his children's reluctance to earn their own livings.

It was sensible for Matthew to look towards the Royal Navy as a career. The Navy promoted on merit and once on the promotional ladder, a sailor acquired a regular income and a pension scheme. There was also the opportunity of prize money, other remuneration and the chance of fame.

Flinders was taken on board *Scipio* in May 1790, aged 16, a little older than was usual for entry to the Navy.

Patronage of a sort had eased his way — he had been introduced to *Scipio*'s commander, Thomas Pasley, by his cousin. Henrietta Flinders worked in Pasley's household as governess.

Photograph of Flinders' family home, Market Square, Donington, Lincolnshire, showing Dr Flinders' one storey consulting room at right. The building was demolished in 1908.

Reproduced in Ernest Scott *The life of Captain Matthew Flinders R.N.* Sydney; Angus & Robertson, 1914

1791-1794, aged 17-20

Collecting breadfruits & fighting the French

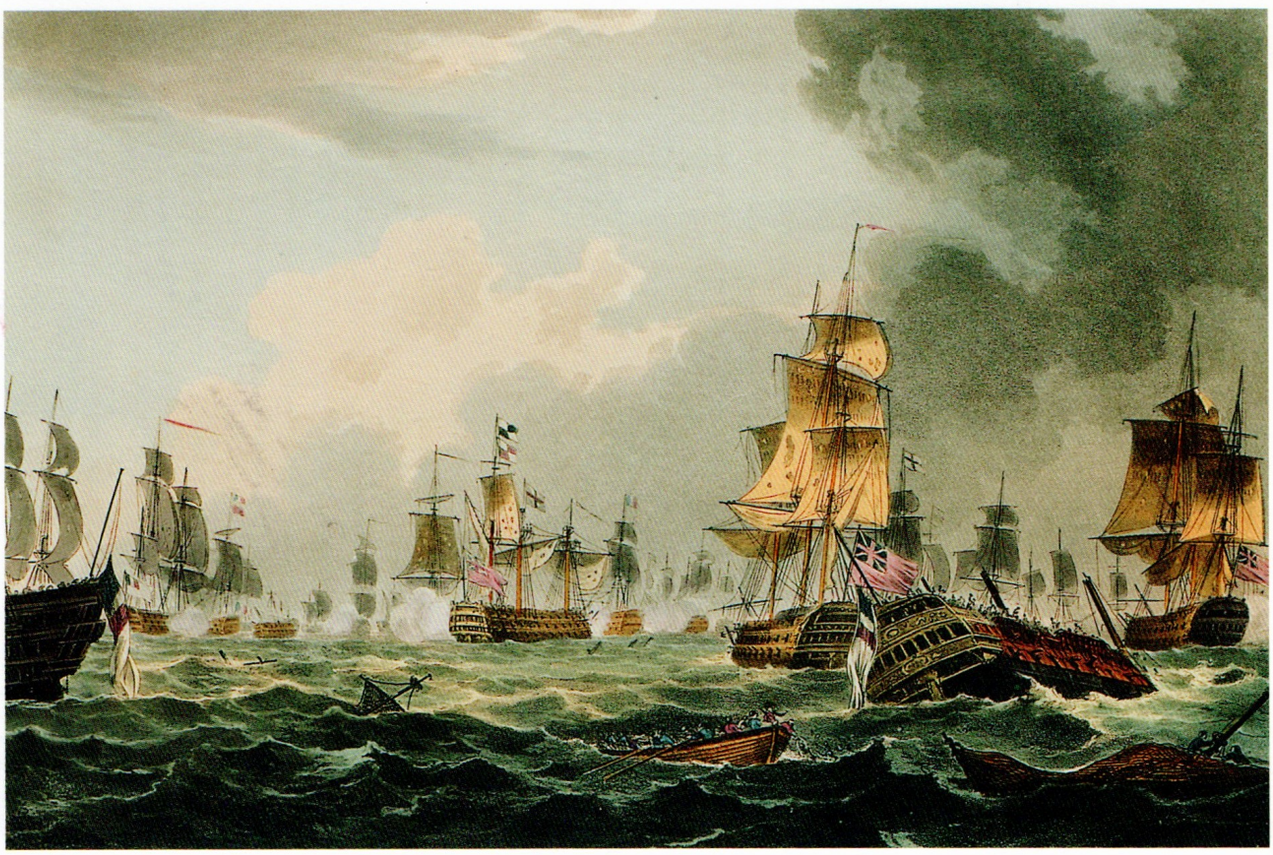
Thomas Pasley recommended Flinders to the famous William Bligh, now bathing in the glory of his heroic voyage of 1789 in *Bounty*'s longboat. In August 1791, Bligh was setting out on a second expedition. He was again attempting what Fletcher Christian's mutiny had prevented – to transfer breadfruit plants from Tahiti to the West Indies as a cheap food for plantation slaves.

Flinders learnt practical navigation and chart-making under Bligh, the master seaman, but thought the captain took credit for his work. He experienced life in some exotic locations and in Torres Strait first witnessed a hostile encounter with Indigenous peoples.

On 7 September 1793, after a two-year voyage, Flinders again joined Pasley, this time on *Bellerophon*. The next year he saw action against the French in the English Channel at the Battle of the Glorious First of June. It was his only experience of naval warfare.

***The Battle of the Glorious First of June*, 1794. Hand coloured aquatint, 1816.**

Rare Books Collection, State Library of New South Wales (SC 16F)



February – September 1795, aged 21

To New South Wales on *Reliance*

Reliance was preparing to sail for New South Wales, bringing out the Colony's second Governor, John Hunter. Thinking of promotional opportunities, Flinders asked to join the crew.

His 12-year-old brother, Samuel — eager for a life at sea — was taken on board under Matthew's care.

The Sydney they reached on 7 September 1795, after six months at sea, was a rough, isolated, prison outpost. It was a shantytown of wooden huts with some brick and stone buildings beginning to be erected.

The population of 3200 people, two thirds of whom were convicts, was divided between Sydney Cove and Parramatta. The Blue Mountains formed a barrier to the west and very little of the surrounding coasts had been explored in detail.

***View of Sydney*, attributed to Thomas Watling, c.1795-1796. Watercolour.**

The verandah on Government House, far left, was added in late 1795. Red tiled roofs are beginning to replace shingles.

Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales (ZML V1/1794+/1). Presented by A. M. Ritchie

1795-1796, aged 21-22

The *Tom Thumb* voyages

The surgeon on *Reliance* was 24-year-old George Bass. Also from Lincolnshire, he did not know Flinders until this voyage.

Flinders was bowled over by Bass. He was everything Flinders wanted to be.

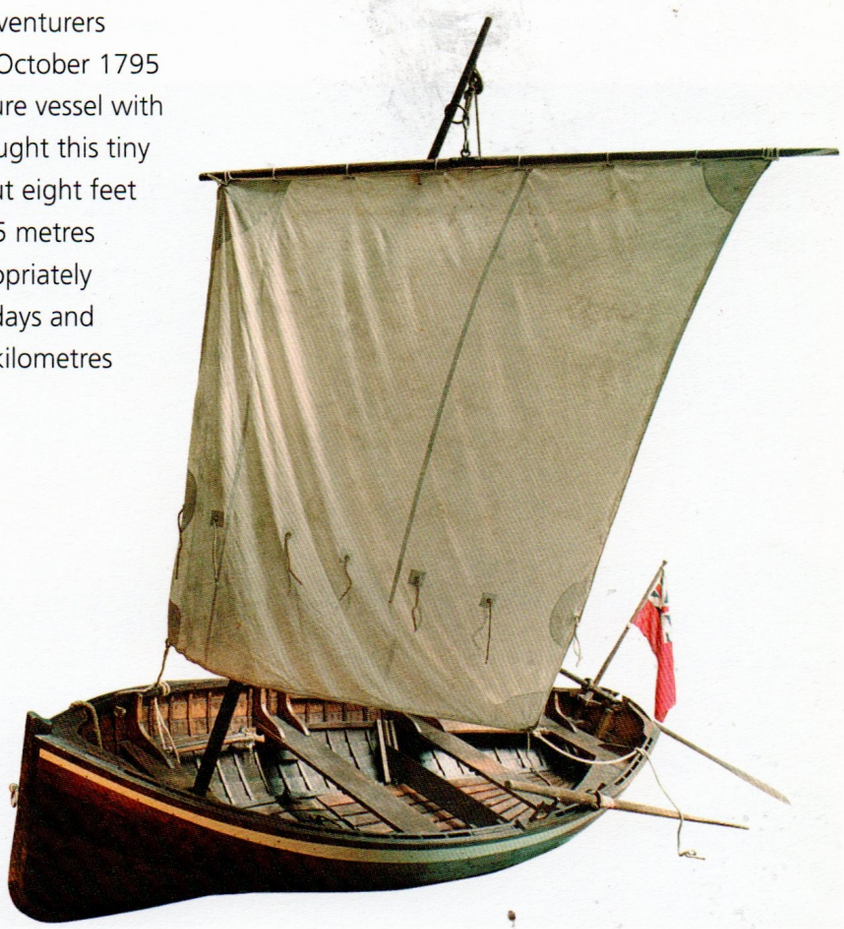
Bass was a physically imposing man of six feet (183 cm), unlike Flinders who was half a foot (15.25 cm) shorter, with a slight build. He was a man of action who had come to the Colony with exploration very much in mind. He was also an intellectual who had brought with him a substantial library of books, reflecting wide interests. He spoke a number of European languages as well as Latin.

Almost immediately, Bass and Flinders left on their first expedition. With Bass' 14-year-old servant, William Martin, the two adventurers headed south to Botany Bay on 26 October 1795 — against the elements in a miniature vessel with a single mast and sail. Bass had brought this tiny boat with him on *Reliance*. At 'about eight feet keel and five feet beam' (around 2.5 metres by 1.5 metres), it was dubbed appropriately *Tom Thumb*. They were away nine days and traced the Georges River about 32 kilometres further inland than hitherto known.

As soon as *Reliance* returned from a voyage to Norfolk Island in March 1796, the two friends set out again in another *Tom Thumb*, one of similar size that had been built in the Colony.

On 25 March, at 3 am, Flinders, Bass and Martin set out to locate a river which had been reported south of Botany Bay. A breeze blew them much further south than intended, almost as far as present-day Port Kembla. They suffered shipwreck, had a tense encounter with some Aboriginal people and came across Lake Illawarra. On their way back north they were almost wrecked by a wild southerly buster. They reached the object of their voyage, Port Hacking, on 31 March 1796.

Replica of the second *Tom Thumb*, made by Ken Gervans, 1987, Sydney Heritage Fleet



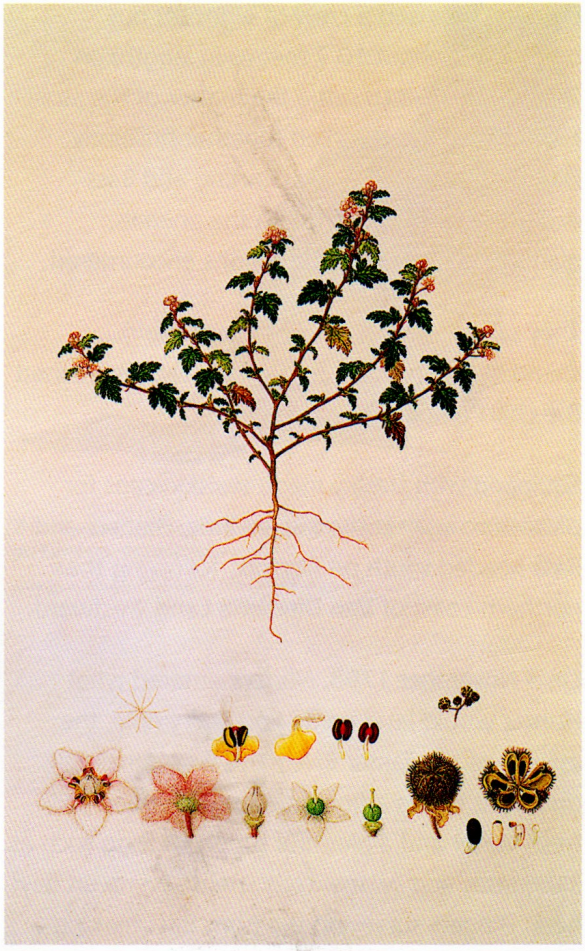
February 1798, aged 23

There must be a strait

Separate voyages now led Bass and Flinders to the shared view that a strait separated the mainland from Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania).

Bass left Sydney on 3 December 1797 in an open whaleboat, about 8.5 metres in length. With a crew of six he sailed south, tracing the coast as far as present-day Westernport, Victoria. Reduced provisions forced a reluctant return but Bass was convinced by the tides and swells that they were in a strait. Dogged by foul weather, this heroic voyage was duly celebrated at the time. The whaleboat itself was preserved as an icon for several years at Sydney Cove and her timbers progressively souvenired.

While Bass was away, Flinders was given permission to carry out survey work while on the colonial schooner *Francis*. In February 1798 *Francis* was sent to the Furneaux Islands, south of the mainland coast, to salvage goods from a wrecked cargo ship at Preservation Island. Flinders also came to the view that a strait existed. This now only needed to be proven by sailing right around Tasmania.



***Rulingia hermanniifolia*, Ferdinand Bauer, c.1805-1814. Watercolour. The specimen was collected by Robert Brown at South Head, Sydney.**

The Natural History Museum, London (Bauer Botanical No. 15)

October 1798 – January 1799, aged 24

The circumnavigation of Tasmania

Flinders, Bass and a crew of eight set out on *Norfolk* (about 10.7 metres in length) on 7 October 1798 to settle the matter of the strait. Flinders and Bass worked together brilliantly. Flinders concentrated on charting and Bass explored on land, describing the animals, plants and geological formations encountered.

They sailed towards the Furneaux Islands, spending twelve days there while Flinders revised the chart made earlier on *Francis*.

Equipped with freshly made sealskin caps for protection against the keen winds, Flinders and Bass headed south on *Norfolk*, following the northern coast of Van Diemen's Land westward.

On 3 November 1798, *Norfolk* entered what Hunter would later name Port Dalrymple, the estuary of the Tamar River. This was a major discovery. It was a fine harbour with good soil, fresh water and a plentiful supply of food such as kangaroos and swans. They spent seventeen days here: Flinders surveying the port, Bass making excursions into the countryside.

Sailing west from Port Dalrymple along an uncharted coast, the north-west inclination caused concern that it might have been joined to the mainland. On 9 December, Bass climbed to the peak of Albatross Island and reported that there was no land to the west or south. Truly, they had reached the western extremity of Van Diemen's Land.

They headed south around the north-west cape (evocatively named Cape Grim by Flinders) and sailed down the west coast in four days. They sailed along the south coast, spending time in the south-east at Frederick Henry Bay and the Derwent estuary. On 3 January 1799 they sailed for Port Jackson, having proven Tasmania to be an island.

Governor Hunter named the strait after Bass, at Flinders' suggestion. Flinders' chart of Bass Strait and Tasmania was sent to London and published in June 1800.

***Canoe, Maria Island, Tasmania*, probably by Nicolas-Martin Petit, c.1802. Watercolour.**
Petit was with the expedition of Nicolas Baudin, 1800-1804.

Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Le Havre, France (18005)

July – August 1799, aged 25

Northward to Hervey Bay

The interior of New South Wales was a mystery. In July 1799 Governor Hunter instructed Flinders to sail north as far as Hervey Bay, near Bundaberg in present-day Queensland, to locate any rivers which would allow entrance to the inland.

Flinders sailed again on *Norfolk*, joined by his brother, Samuel, now aged 16, and a crew of eight. Bungaree, a member of the Sydney district Eora tribe, was taken on the voyage as interpreter.

There was one other 'crew' member on *Norfolk* who was destined to rival Flinders in affection if not in fame. This was Trim, Matthew Flinders' intrepid cat, who would from now until his death in 1804 share all of his master's extraordinary exploits.

Trim was born in early 1797. Flinders, in his whimsical biography of the cat, noted that 'Trim presented a request to be of the party [on *Norfolk*], promising to take upon himself the defence of our bread bags', and indeed Trim was to prove an accomplished ratter.

Although the coast is littered with rivers, Flinders found none of them and confidently told the Governor that none existed. Flinders was always very sure of himself.

***Trim the cat*, by Rosie Handley, 2001. Digital illustration based on Flinders' description.**

Publications & Design, State Library of New South Wales

September 1800, aged 26

Joseph Banks: My 'guardian genius'

At the beginning of the year 1800, Matthew Flinders was thinking of his future. Money was on his mind. George Bass had left the Colony in May 1799 to pursue a career as a merchant. Perhaps Flinders should follow his friend's example?

The six-month voyage back to England gave Flinders time to think and when he arrived at Portsmouth, in early September 1800, all ideas of a mercantile career had vanished. He had determined that his mission would be to complete the European discovery of Australia and perhaps in the process elevate his name alongside that of the great James Cook.

He immediately wrote an audacious letter asking to be given such a task. He sent the letter not to the Admiralty but, shrewdly, to Sir Joseph Banks telling Banks that he would undertake such surveys 'with that zeal which I hope has hitherto characterized my services'.

Banks, 57 years old, President of the Royal Society, and a man of independent means, used his wealth and influence to support scientific investigation. He was passionately interested in New South Wales ever since he had sailed along the east coast with Cook in 1770. Holding no official position, he wielded power through the use of influence.

Banks used his influence with Lord Spencer, First Lord of the Admiralty and a friend and neighbour, to have the voyage approved with Flinders in command.

Soho Square, London **by George Shepherd, 1812. Hand coloured etching. Sir Joseph Banks' house, no. 32, is in the far left corner.**

Dixson Galleries, State Library of New South Wales (DG SSV99/1)

January – July 1801, aged 26-27

Investigator

Flinders' commission as Lieutenant-in-Command of *Investigator* was signed on 19 January 1801.

It is a tribute to Banks' influence and persistence that money and effort were diverted to planning and equipping the *Investigator* voyage in the midst of war with France. The *Investigator* voyage was Banks' project. He oversaw all the details of its preparation, he supported Flinders when difficulties arose with the Admiralty, and he chose the scientific staff who would accompany it.

Flinders was able to choose an all-volunteer crew, mainly aged between twenty and twenty-five, and was given the best of stores and navigational instruments. Eighty-eight men sailed on *Investigator*. The ship herself was 30 metres in length and 8.5 metres in breadth.

Samuel Flinders was second lieutenant, and his cousin, John Franklin, aged 15 (later to be lieutenant-governor of Tasmania and a famed Arctic explorer), was a midshipman. Also on board was faithful Trim – now aged four years – the first cat to circumnavigate Australia.

Portrait of Sir Joseph Banks **by Charles Dance, engraved by William Daniell, 1803. Soft ground etching.**

Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales (ML P3/35)

My love must wait

Born on 21 November 1772 and thus 16 months older than Matthew, Ann Chappelle had been part of Flinders' circle of friends before he sailed for New South Wales on *Reliance* in 1795. He had not seen her now for over five years, though he had written to her and named a mountain and an island after her in Bass Strait. He had only one meeting with her, in January 1801, before they married on 17 April that year.

Flinders had promised to take her on *Investigator* with him. He was unable to redeem this foolhardy pledge. After three months of marriage, Matthew and Ann would not see each other again for over nine years.

Ann's later letters to him deplore his decision to undertake the voyage and desert her. He answers firmly that there was no alternative as, unless he could add to his finances, there simply was not the money available to live decently in England.

***Portrait of* (l to r) *Isabella Tyler, Anne Flinders, and Ann Flinders*, Unknown artist, c.1822. Watercolour.**
Anne Flinders, born 1 April 1812, was the daughter of Ann and Matthew Flinders. Isabella Tyler was Ann Flinders' step-sister. This is the only known portrait of Ann Flinders.

Collection of Lisette Flinders Petrie

The men of science

The importance of the scientists and artists on board is indicated by their salaries. Matthew Flinders was paid £250 (British pounds) per annum as commander, whereas the naturalist was paid £420 and the artists, £315 each.

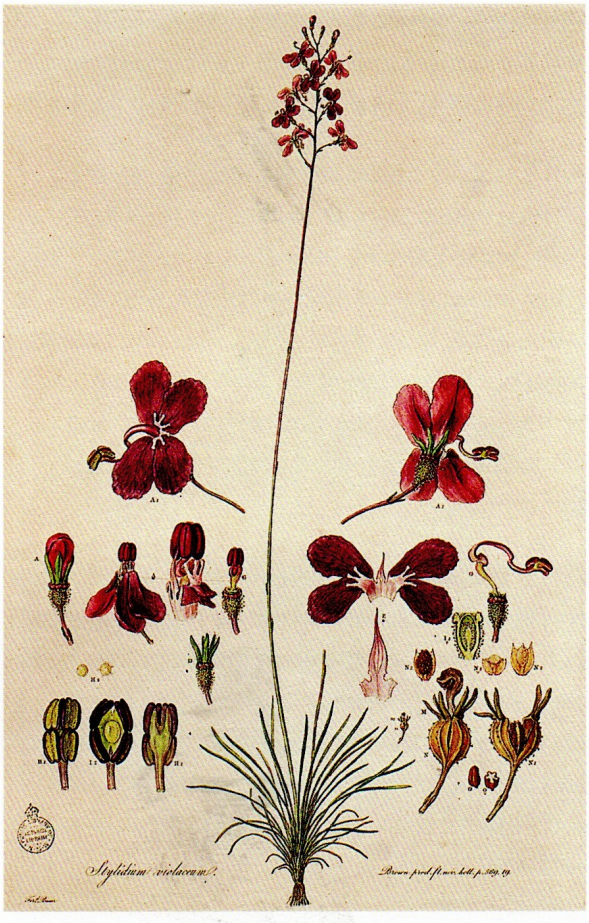
Robert Brown, aged twenty-eight, was the naturalist. Scottish by birth, he had been an enthusiast for natural history from an early age. As a result of *Investigator*'s voyage, he published the first scientific work of Australian botany in 1810.

Ferdinand Lucas Bauer, aged forty-one, was natural history painter. Austrian by birth, he was highly regarded as a botanical artist. Bauer's method was to make a detailed pencil sketch of a plant or animal on the spot and then colour it later by reference to a complex numerical colour chart. This ingenious method enabled him to complete his drawings with unsurpassed accuracy. He published fifteen of his exquisite watercolours between 1813 and 1816.

William Westall, aged nineteen, was the landscape painter. A romantic young art student, the Australian landscape was a great disappointment to him. He published a selection of his views in 1814.

Peter Good was gardener. He had worked at the Royal Gardens at Kew and was experienced in transporting plants. He was responsible for collecting seeds and maintaining selected plants in pots and boxes. He died from dysentery at Sydney in June 1803.

John Allen was appointed miner in order to assess the mineral potential of the new land. Nothing is known of his background.



***Stylidium violaceum,* Ferdinand Bauer, c. 1813-1816. Hand coloured etching. The specimen was collected at King George Sound, Western Australia, December 1801 – January 1802.**

Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales (ML F581.99/B)

December 1801 – May 1802, aged 27-28

The south coast

Investigator left Portsmouth on 18 July 1801 and the Australian continent was sighted on 6 December at Cape Leeuwin, Western Australia.

By 18 January 1802 they were at the sea edge of what would later be named the Nullarbor Plain. Immense cliffs, 90 metres in height, overshadowed the tiny *Investigator*, with its mainmast only 30 metres high. The land behind could not be seen. Flinders speculated that perhaps an inland sea was behind them, and this idea would beguile explorers for the next half century.

On 20 February, they anchored at an island at the entrance to what would later be named Spencer Gulf. This could be the great discovery they had been seeking: perhaps a large river, an inland sea or even a passage through to the Gulf of Carpentaria. Nine days were spent at Port Lincoln and Flinders' chart of it would not be superseded until 1874.

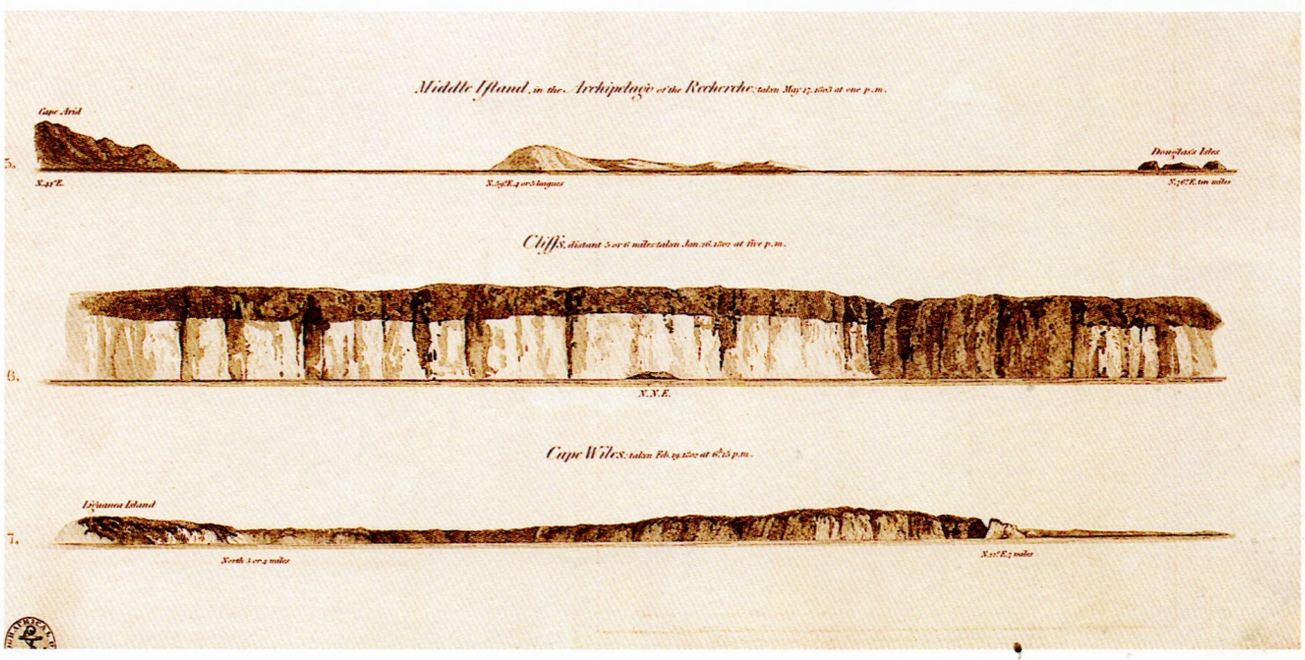
Leaving Port Lincoln on 6 March, they proceeded north to see whether this body of water might lead to the Gulf of Carpentaria. Their hopes were dashed when this impressive gulf ended in a salty swamp.

Kangaroo Island, named by Flinders, was discovered on 20 March. Thirty-one kangaroos were shot on the first day, providing much needed fresh meat for steaks and soup. Their skins were made into caps for the sailors. St Vincent Gulf was next discovered and surveyed in four days.

On 26 April, *Investigator* entered Port Phillip where she would remain until 3 May. Flinders' hopes were doubly dashed. This was not the entrance to an inland sea, which at first it had appeared to be. Further — as Flinders learned when he reached Sydney on 9 May — John Murray had been there in the *Lady Nelson* ten weeks earlier.

***Cliffs, distant 5 or 6 miles: taken Jan. 26. 1802 at five p.m.,* William Westall. Engraving, published 1814.**
The sea edge of what would later be named the Nullarbor Plain. Flinders' speculation that an inland sea lay behind these cliffs beguiled explorers for half a century.

Dixson Library, State Library of New South Wales (DL F81/4). Bequest of Sir William Dixson, 1952.


Middle Island, in the Archipelago of the Recherche: taken May 17. 1803 at one p.m.
Cape Arid
Cliffs, distant 5 or 6 miles: taken Jan. 26. 1802 at five p.m.
N.N.E.
Cape Wiles: taken Feb. 19. 1802 at 6h 15 p.m.
Kangaroo Island
North 5 or 6 miles

April 1802, aged 28

Encounter with the French

On 8 April, a ship was sighted coming from the east. This was *Le Geographe*, commanded by Nicolas Baudin.

When Baudin left Le Havre, France, in October 1800, he was in charge of one of the best equipped voyages of discovery ever mounted. The aim was similar to Flinders' – to complete the charting of Australia, as well as to investigate the people, plants, animals and minerals of this largely unexplored land.

Flinders and Baudin met on successive days on *Le Geographe* outside Encounter Bay, South Australia (named by Flinders to commemorate the event). These meetings have loomed larger in later retellings than they did to Flinders and Baudin at the time.

The accounts of the meetings are in fact somewhat garbled, as Flinders spoke no French and Baudin, heavily accented English. Baudin's own journal reveals that several facts communicated to him by Flinders became distorted. Owing to the language barrier, communication was neither easy nor particularly clear.

Portrait of Nicolas Baudin **by Phillip Parker King. Ink sketch copied from a drawing by Nicolas-Martin Petit, c.1802.**

Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales (ML PXC767 f12)

***General chart of Terra Australis or Australia*, Matthew Flinders, 1814. The chart was drawn in 1804 on Mauritius. Flinders titled it 'Australia or Terra Australis' but was forced to reverse this title for publication. It is the summary of his life's work and his memorial.**

Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales (MAXX/804b/1803/1A). Presented by Colonel A. E. Knox, 1960.

May – July 1802, aged 28

Refreshment at Sydney

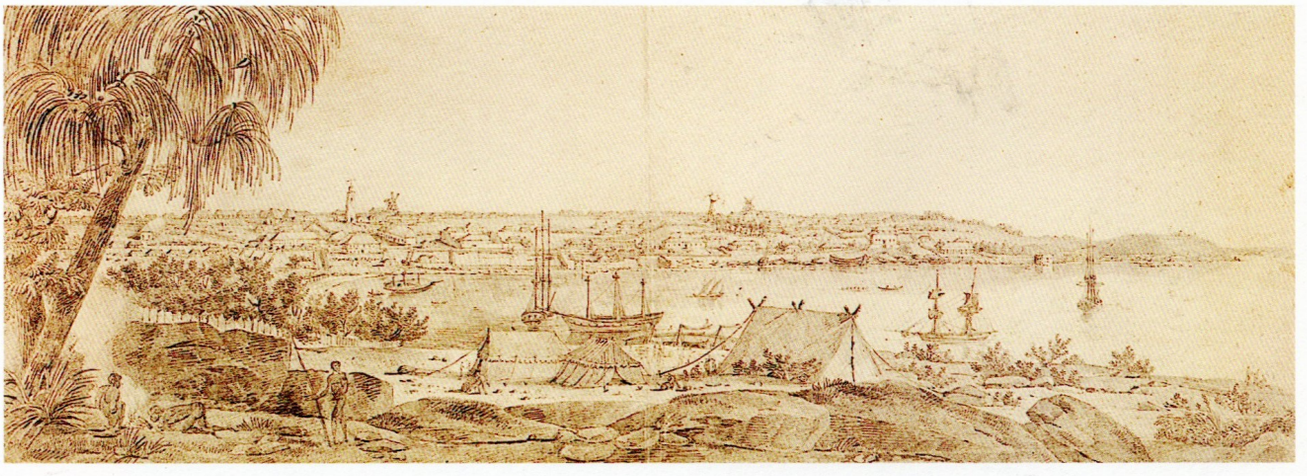
Ten weeks were spent at Sydney. *Investigator* was moored near the present-day Opera House, with a camp established on shore nearby. The ship was repaired and painted. Flinders worked on his charts and the scientists went exploring.

Flinders was very pleased with his achievements. He wrote to his wife that he was now a person of some consequence.

In late June, Baudin on *Le Geographe* entered the port. He was shown hospitality by the Governor, Philip Gidley King. Many of his men were ill and they were given medical attention. Flinders would later contrast this reception with what he received at Mauritius, then a French colony.

Flinders consulted King on how he should proceed. King instructed him to concentrate on Torres Strait, the Gulf of Carpentaria and the north and north-west coasts.

Bungaree was again recruited to act as intermediary with Aboriginal peoples.



***Panorama of Port Jackson*, 1802, showing the French camp in the foreground, by Charles-Alexandre Lesueur. Pencil and ink. Lesueur was with the expedition of Nicolas Baudin, 1800-1804.**

Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Le Havre, France

July – November 1802, aged 28

The east coast

In defiance of his orders, Flinders decided to dally on his way up the Queensland coast, even though this jeopardised the northern survey because of the approaching monsoon season. He could not resist the temptation of improving Cook's chart.

In August they made the significant discovery of Port Curtis, where the city of Gladstone was later established. When the local Aboriginal people resisted their intrusion, they fired muskets over their heads to disperse them.

At Broad Sound in September, Robert Brown came across the tree which he would later name after Flinders – *Flindersia Australis* – and Ferdinand Bauer made a detailed sketch of it.

Three hundred and twenty kilometres of the Barrier Reef were surveyed and named in October and not until the era of aerial photography would this survey be superseded. South of present-day Townsville, Flinders passed through the reefs and into the open sea to reach the Gulf of Carpentaria speedily. He navigated through Torres Strait in three days.

***Flindersia australis,* Ferdinand Bauer, c.1805-1814. Watercolour. The specimen was collected at Broad Sound, Queensland, in September 1802.**

The Natural History Museum, London (Bauer Botanical No. 23)

November 1802 – March 1803, aged 28

Gulf of Carpentaria

Flinders' charting of the Gulf, commenced on 4 November 1802, would be used for the next 150 years.

The weather was oppressive, humid and wet, the landscape was monotonous, they were running low on provisions, and from mid-December an aggressive and continuous diarrhoea swept through the ship. Bush flies bothered them by day and mosquitoes attacked them at night.

They encountered indications of Asian visitors, an Aboriginal burial site and a magnificent set of cave paintings. There was a tragic skirmish at Morgan's Island in January 1803 which resulted in the death of an Aboriginal man. His body was dissected for study, sketched by Westall, and his head preserved in spirits.

On 17 February 1803, off Cape Wilberforce, north-east Arnhem Land, they sighted six vessels. These were from Macassar and were on a regular visit for bêche-de-mer or trepang. Communication was possible because, fortuitously, the cook on *Investigator*, Abraham Williams, was Malay. We now know that these visits had been made for at least a century. Flinders' encounter with these fishermen, which he wrote up in his journal, is the first documentary record of the earliest non-Aboriginal visitors to Australia.

In early March, after sailing through the Wessel Islands, Flinders was forced to abandon the survey owing to the condition of *Investigator*. He was utterly dejected and reproved himself for throwing in the towel but there was no alternative. He returned quickly to Sydney via the west and south coasts.

A visit to Timor to obtain supplies added dysentery to their problems and as they sailed along the south coast of Australia the body count began. Five men died before they reached Sydney on 9 June and another four after their arrival.

***A Malay fleet at Sims island, off Arnhem Land,* Phillip Parker King, 1818. Watercolour.**
Matthew Flinders, in 1803, had been the first European to encounter these fleets which regularly visited the area for trepang.

Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales (ZML PXC767 f 67)

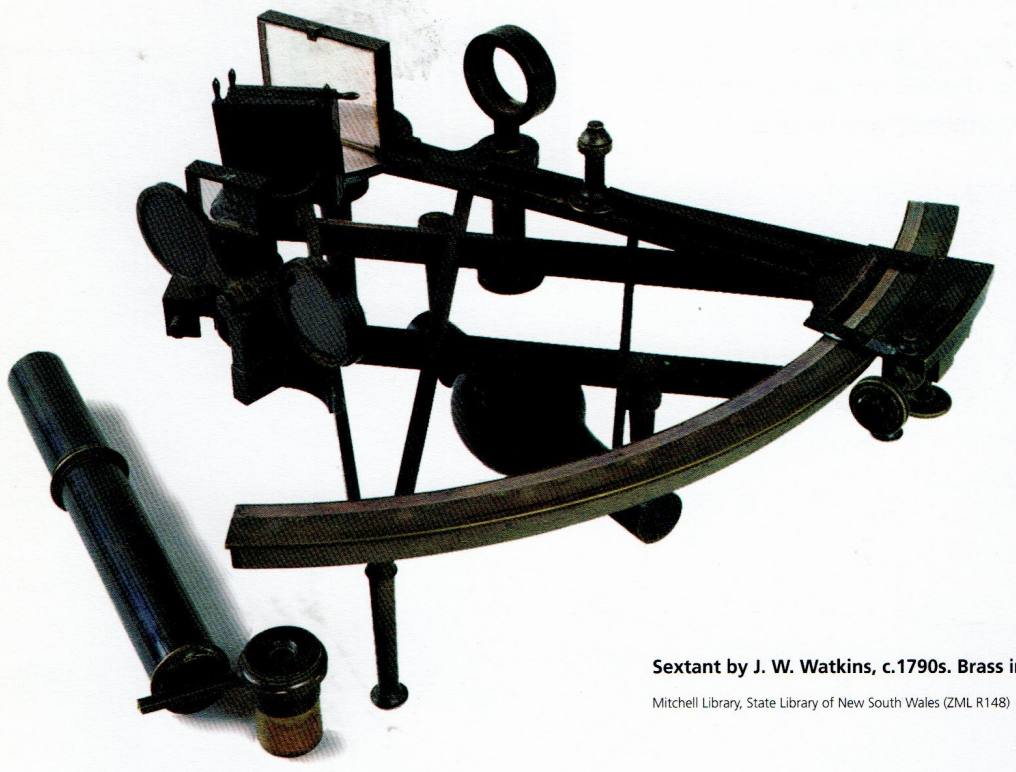
Navigation in the late eighteenth century

Establishing latitude and longitude involved calculating the positions of the sun, moon, planets and stars, then comparing them with those at known locations or times.

Instruments such as the quadrant and sextant were used to measure the angles between celestial bodies or between a body and the horizon. Published tables gave information about these bodies at set places or times. Spherical trigonometry applied to this data gave the position of the ship.

The invention of the chronometer greatly improved the calculation of longitude. The chronometer was set to Greenwich time which, when compared to local time, gave the longitude.

Matthew Flinders had a chronometer on the *Norfolk* voyage to Hervey Bay and several on *Investigator*. The chronometer was still in its infancy and Flinders verified its readings with the earlier methods for calculating longitude. It was not until 1803 that Thomas Earnshaw developed an affordable, accurate chronometer.



Sextant by J. W. Watkins, c.1790s. Brass in wooden case.

Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales (ZML R148)

Mapping Australia

Matthew Flinders set out to locate the missing pieces in what was the jigsaw puzzle of Australia.

Throughout the early 17th century the Dutch had gradually charted the coasts of Australia with the exception of the east coast, part of the south coast, and the north of Tasmania.

James Cook had sailed up the east coast in 1770 but had not charted that coast in detail. His chart needed to be refined and expanded.

Flinders filled in most of the remaining jigsaw pieces on *Norfolk* in 1798-1799 and on *Investigator* in 1801-1803.

He charted Tasmania and proved it to be an island. He charted the unknown south coast and proved there was no channel through to the north coast, dividing the continent, or a large gulf.

Flinders drew his great map of Australia while he was detained at Mauritius. It was completed by August 1804. He titled it 'Australia or Terra Australis', making a bold claim for a new name for the entity he had recently delineated. This chart was published in 1814 but Flinders was forced to reverse the title. It was published as 'Terra Australis or Australia'.

A chart of Bass's strait ...* Matthew Flinders, London, A. Arrowsmith, 1801. The second edition, published with Flinders' book *Observations on the coasts of Van Diemen's Land.

Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales (ZML M3 806p/1799/1)

August – December 1803, aged 29

Sailing for home

Flinders was determined to complete his work. He described himself to Banks in June 1803 as 'a young man just commencing his career'. He was only 29 years old, but tragically his career was over.

There was no suitable ship available at Sydney. Flinders boarded *Porpoise* on 10 August 1803 as a passenger en route to England where he could obtain another vessel.

On 17 August, *Porpoise* was wrecked on a reef in the Coral Sea (a name bestowed by Flinders). They reached the safety of a sandbank which would be home for seven weeks while Flinders, with 12 others, returned to Sydney in the cutter to secure relief.

A trio of vessels — *Rolla*, *Francis* and *Cumberland* — left Sydney on 20 September bound for Wreck Reef, arriving on 7 October. Some of those stranded on the sandbank would join *Rolla* which was bound for China; others would go back to Sydney on *Francis*. A select group of ten volunteers would join Flinders on *Cumberland*, a vessel of about 11 metres in length, to complete the survey of Torres Strait on the way back to England.

It was a foolhardy mission and Flinders paid a very high price for defying the odds. He knew *Cumberland*'s deficiencies. He had recorded on 24 September, having only just left Sydney, that she was 'exceedingly crank' and 'very leaky'. He was apprehensive that she would go the full distance around the world. But he persisted in his folly.

***View of Wreck-Reef Bank, taken at low water*, William Westall, 1803. Engraving published 1814.**

Dixson Library, State Library of New South Wales (DL Q81/24). Bequest of Sir William Dixson, 1952.

December 1803 – June 1810, aged 29-36

Learning patience: Mauritius

By early December 1803, the condition of *Cumberland* was such that a decision was made to call at the island of Mauritius, then a French possession, 1800 kilometres east of Madagascar in the Indian Ocean. Flinders was hopeful of obtaining a replacement ship there.

Accused of being a spy, he spent six and a half years in detention here. It was the longest period he spent in one place in his adult life.

In August 1805, he received permission to live in the interior of the island. He could reside on the plantation of Louise d'Arifat, a widow, provided he did not go more than 10 kilometres from there without Decaen's permission.

Flinders delighted in exploring the scenic beauty of the area, examining it with a scientist's eye. Here he learnt French, read, visited neighbours, played tric-trac, attended parties and dances. He learnt to play chess. In many ways, it was a convivial life.

His many friends and activities to some extent alleviated his mind. But still he heard nothing of his release and his absence from Ann was taking its toll. In late 1806, he suffered a period of acute depression. Although he enjoyed the company of his friends, it was nonetheless an alien society in which he could not be totally comfortable.

***Scene on Mauritius*. Hand coloured engraving, published 1825.**

Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales (ZML X980/20A).
Presented by Colonel A. E. Knox, 1960.

Charles Decaen

The man who imprisoned Flinders was the Governor of Mauritius, Charles Mathieu Isidore Decaen, 34 years of age in December 1803. He was a patriot, a strong supporter of Napoleon, and saw his role as helping expel the British from India.

In the evening of 17 December 1803, Flinders had his one and only interview with Decaen. Despite requests, he would never be allowed to meet him again. Decaen thought Flinders acted imperiously — which he does seem to have done.

In Decaen's view, Flinders could be a spy. He referred the whole matter to Paris for a decision.

In October 1804 it was learnt on Mauritius that the Council of State in Paris had decided to grant Flinders his freedom but this needed to be ratified by Napoleon. Napoleon signed Flinders' release in March 1806; this was received on Mauritius in July 1807.

Flinders was exhilarated only to be quickly and mercilessly crushed. Decaen would not act, circumstances had changed, he said. British ships menaced the island, resulting in serious food shortages. Decaen knew that it could not be defended against a British attack. Perhaps Flinders was a useful pawn in his power play or perhaps he knew too much about the island and its defences to be released.

Then, in March 1810, mysteriously, Decaen agreed to free Flinders. Perhaps he realised that his island citadel was doomed and that he would best be rid of his troublesome guest — if only to ease his own treatment by the British. Eight months later, Britain took the island and allowed Decaen to return to France, where he continued his career.

***Portrait of Matthew Flinders* by Toussaint Antoine De Chazal, 1806-1807. Oil on canvas.**

Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide. Gift of David Roche in memory of his father, J.D.K. Roche; and the South Australian Government, 2000.

***Portrait of Charles Mathieu Isidore Decaen*, c.1804-1810. Oil.**

Naval Museum, Mauritius

October 1810 – July 1814, aged 36-40

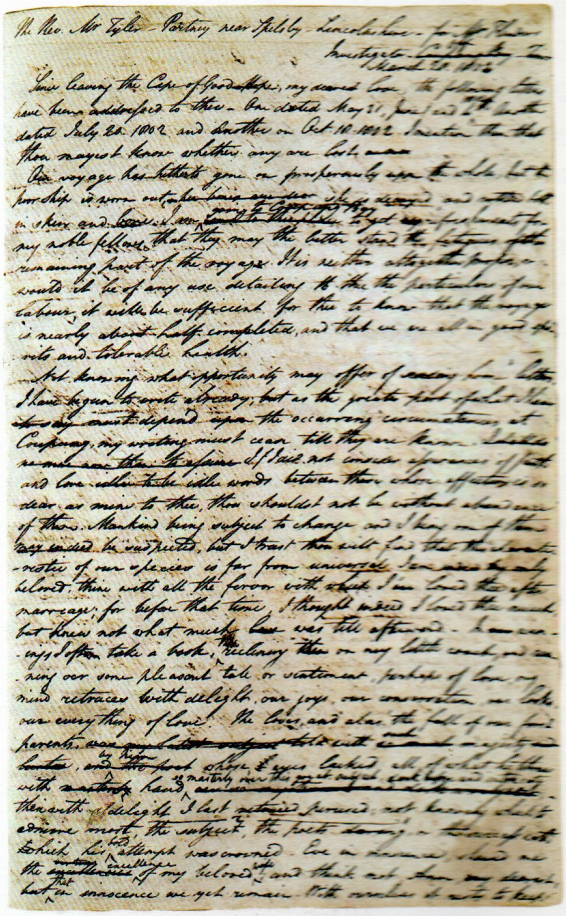
Writing the story

Flinders reached Portsmouth on Wednesday 24 October 1810. He went up to London by coach and was reunited with Ann the next day. He had not heard from her for four and a half years and had not seen her for over nine.

His remaining time would be spent with Ann at a number of rented lodgings in London while he prepared his charts for publication and wrote the accompanying narrative.

Flinders' problem with the 'gravel', stones in the bladder, returned. The diet of the time is thought to have aggravated this. He had suffered intermittently from this for twenty years but the last months of his life were spent in great discomfort. The associated infection would kill him. It is a myth that Flinders' treatment on Mauritius had anything to do with his untimely death, though this became the family legend.

His book, *A Voyage to Terra Australis*, with its accompanying atlas — the summary of his life's work — was published on 18 July 1814. Flinders died the next day (although he had seen a copy earlier). Ann lived, impecuniously, for almost another forty years, dying in 1852, in her eightieth year. On 1 April 1812, a daughter, Anne, had been born to Ann and Matthew.



Matthew Flinders' draft of letter to his wife, Ann, from Sydney, 28 March 1803.

Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales (ZML 51/55).
Presented by Sir William Flinders Petrie, 1922.

'Our voyage has hitherto gone on prosperously upon the whole, but the poor ship is worn out, she is decayed both in skin and bone ... In evenings I oft take a book, reclining on my little couch, and running o'er some pleasant tale or sentiment, perhaps of love, my mind retraces with delight, our joys, our conversation, our looks, our everything of love.'

The Voyage of *Investigator* — **Timeline**

18 July 1801
Investigator sails from Portsmouth

6 December 1801
Cape Leeuwin, Western Australia sighted

8 December 1801 – 5 January 1802
King George Sound, Western Australia

8 January 1802
Archipelago of the Recherche, Western Australia

9 January 1802
Lucky Bay, Western Australia

18 January 1802
Seaward edge of Nullarbor Plain

27 January 1802
Head of the Great Australian Bight

29 January 1802
Fowler's Bay, South Australia

30 January – 9 February 1802
Nuyts Archipelago, South Australia, beginning of unknown coast

10-11 February 1802
Anxious Bay, South Australia

16 February 1802
Coffin Bay, South Australia

21 February 1802
Cutter wrecked at Memory Cove, South Australia, eight drowned

25 February – 6 March 1802
Port Lincoln, South Australia

11 March 1802
Head of Spencer Gulf, South Australia

21-24 March 1802
Kangaroo Island

28 March – 1 April 1802
St Vincent Gulf, South Australia

1-6 April 1802
Kangaroo Island

8-9 April 1802
Meetings with Nicolas Baudin on board *Le Geographe* outside Encounter Bay, South Australia

26 April – 3 May 1802
Port Phillip, Victoria

9 May – 22 July 1802
Port Jackson, New South Wales

30 July 1802
Hervey Bay, Queensland

4-8 August 1802
Port Curtis (Gladstone), Queensland

9-20 August 1802
Keppel Bay, Queensland

21-24 August 1802
Port Bowen, Queensland

27 August – 4 September 1802
Shoalwater Bay, Queensland

10 September – 27 September 1802
Broad Sound, Queensland

29 September – 4 October 1802
Percy Isles, Queensland

20 October 1802
Investigator passes through reef, which Flinders names Barrier Reef, into open sea

29 October – 2 November 1802
Torres Strait

7 November 1802
Pennefather River, Gulf of Carpentaria

8 November 1802
Albatross Bay (Weipa), Gulf of Carpentaria

17-29 November 1802
Sweers' Island, Gulf of Carpentaria, *Investigator* examined

13-27 December 1802
Sir Edward Pellew Group, Gulf of Carpentaria

4-14 January 1803
Groote Eylandt, Gulf of Carpentaria

20-22 January 1803
Morgan's Island, Gulf of Carpentaria

2-10 February 1803
Caledon Bay, Gulf of Carpentaria

13-16 February 1803
Melville Bay, Gulf of Carpentaria

17-18 February 1803
Meetings with Macassans, off Cape Wilberforce

28 February – 5 March 1803
Arnhem Bay, Gulf of Carpentaria

6 March 1803
Wessel Islands, survey terminated

21 March – 8 April 1803
Kupang, Timor

17-21 May 1803
Goose Island Bay, Recherche Archipelago, Western Australia

9 June 1803
Port Jackson

The naming of Australia

Matthew Flinders did not invent the word 'Australia' nor was he the first to use it in print to refer to lands in the southern hemisphere. Its use goes back to the early seventeenth century and was simply a derivation from 'australis', the Latin word for 'southern'. For centuries, the presumed southern continent had been called *terra australis incognita* — the unknown southern land.

In 1606, the Spanish explorer Pedro Fernandez de Quiros used the term 'austrialia' as a name for Vanuatu, which he believed to be the southern continent. This was a reference to the fact that Philip III of Spain was also a Prince of the House of Austria. In 1612, a Dutch publication had rendered this 'australia' and the word appeared intermittently over the next two hundred years.

Until Flinders completed his circumnavigation of the continent in 1803, the true outline of what became known as 'Australia' was unknown. Flinders was the first to apply the term to the entity he had delineated.

From 1804 Flinders used the word 'Australia' to refer to his discoveries. When he compiled his map of the continent and Tasmania in that year he titled it 'Australia or Terra Australis'.

Flinders had to fight to retain these terms because the term 'New Holland' was already in use in existing publications. Indeed, in 1810 Robert Brown used the term in the title of his published work on the botany of the *Investigator* voyage.

Flinders wanted to use 'Australia' but eventually had to compromise with 'Terra Australis'. At least that term did not imply a Dutch discovery of the whole of the continent.

When Flinders' atlas was published in 1814, the great chart of the nation was headed 'Terra Australis or Australia' and his book was titled *A Voyage to Terra Australis*. He wrote: 'Had I permitted myself any innovation upon the original term, it would have been to convert it into Australia; as being more agreeable to the ear, and an assimilation to the names of the other great portions of the earth'.

Governor Lachlan Macquarie received a copy of Flinders' book in 1817 and began to use 'Australia' in his correspondence. This official sanction increased its use.

Phillip Parker King, Flinders' successor in surveying the Australian coast, was able to use 'Australia' on his charts, some of which superseded Flinders'. His 1827 publication was titled *Narrative of a Survey of the Intertropical and Western Coasts of Australia* ...

Further reading

The classic biography of Matthew Flinders is Ernest Scott 1914 (reissued 2001), *The Life of Captain Matthew Flinders R.N.*, Angus & Robertson, Sydney.

A major biography of Matthew Flinders by Miriam Estensen is in preparation for publication in 2002 by Allen & Unwin.

Geoffrey Ingleton 1986, *Matthew Flinders*, Genesis Publications, Surrey, is a mine of biographical and cartographic information.

Anthony J. Brown 2000, *Ill-starred Captains: Flinders and Baudin*, Crawford House Publishing, Hindmarsh, compares the two voyages and their captains.

Matthew Flinders' own account of his voyages, *A Voyage to Terra Australis* 1814, was reissued by the Libraries Board of South Australia, 1966 and by the South Australian Government Printer, 1989. There is also a shortened version:

Tim Flannery (ed.) 2000, *Terra Australis: Matthew Flinders' Great Adventures in the Circumnavigation of Australia*, Text Publishing, Melbourne.

Flinders' biography of his cat:

Trim 1997, illustrations by Annette Macarthur-Onslow, Angus & Robertson, Sydney.

Flinders' account of his voyage on *Norfolk* to Tasmania, 1798-9:

Matthew Flinders 1801, *Observations on the Coasts of Van Diemen's Land, on Bass's Strait and Its Islands ...* Reissued in 1979 with an introduction by George Mackaness, Review Publications, Dubbo.

Flinders' journal of his voyage on *Norfolk* to Hervey Bay in 1799:

David Collins 1802, *An Account of the English Colony in New South Wales*, vol. 2; republished, Brian H. Fletcher (ed.) 1975, A. H. & A. W. Reed, Sydney.

Flinders' narrative of *Tom Thumb*'s voyage, 1796, held by the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich: Keith Bowden (ed.) 1985, *Matthew Flinders' Narrative of Tom Thumb's Cruise to Canoe Rivulet*, South Eastern Historical Association, Brighton, Victoria.

Flinders' journal kept on *Francis*, 1798, held by the State Library of Victoria:

Geoffrey Rawson (ed.) 1946, Golden Cockerel Press, London.

A selection of letters from Flinders to his wife, Ann:

Catharine Retter & Shirley Sinclair (eds) 1999, reissued 2001, *Letters to Ann*, Angus & Robertson, Sydney.

An edition of Flinders' letters, edited by Paul Brunton, is due for publication by Hordern House, Sydney, in 2002.

Flinders' private diary kept from 1803 to 1814 (held by the Mitchell Library, Sydney), is due for publication in 2002 by Crawford House Publishing, Hindmarsh, edited by Anthony J. Brown.

The major biography of George Bass is:

Keith Bowden 1952, *George Bass; 1771-1803: His Discoveries, Romantic Life and Tragic Disappearance*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne.

George Bass' journal on *Norfolk* to Tasmania with Flinders, 1798-9, was published in David Collins 1802, *An Account of the English Colony in New South Wales,* vol. 2; republished 1975, Brian H. Fletcher (ed.), A. H. & A. W. Reed, Sydney.

Peter Good's journal (held by the Natural History Museum, London), was published in 1981 by the Library of Australian History, Sydney, with an introduction by Phyllis I. Edwards.

The State Library of New South Wales, generously sponsored by Mr James Fairfax AO, has placed its Matthew Flinders collection — including facsimiles of manuscripts and full transcriptions — on the Internet at **www.slnsw.gov.au/flinders/**

William Westall's drawings, held by the National Library of Australia, are available on the Internet at **www.nla.gov.au/**

Item list

The following items are included in *Matthew Flinders: The Ultimate Voyage* at the State Library of New South Wales, 1 October 2001 – 13 January 2002. Some items will be replaced at subsequent venues owing to preservation and other requirements.

Unless indicated otherwise, all items are held by the State Library of New South Wales.

Introduction

Toussaint Antoine De Chazal, *Portrait of Matthew Flinders*, 1806-1807, oil on canvas
Kindly lent by Art Gallery of South Australia Adelaide
Gift of David Roche in memory of his father, J. D. K. Roche, and the South Australian Government, 2000.

A Lincolnshire childhood

N. Tindal, *The History of England Originally Written ... by M. Rapin de Thoyras ...* vol. 4
London, John Harrison 1785-1789 [-1791]
Acquired 1886
RB 09 DF942/19

Photograph of Flinders' family home, Market Square, Donington, pre-1908, reproduced in Ernest Scott, *The Life of Captain Matthew Flinders R. N.*, Sydney, Angus & Robertson 1914
ML A923.9/F622/6A3

Daniel Defoe, *The Life and Strange Surprizing Adventures of Robinson Crusoe ...* vol. 1
London, John Stockdale 1790
Purchased Bernard Quaritch London 1966
ML823.5/D314/3E1

John Hamilton Moore, *The Practical Navigator and Seaman's New Daily Assistant ...* London
B. Law and Son 1791
Acquired from Captain Francis Bayldon 1949
Bayldon Nautical Collection 592

John Robertson, *The Elements of Navigation ...* London, J. Nourse 1764
Presented by Captain John Bedford 1910
ML 527/R

Samuel Ireland, *Picturesque Views on the River Medway ...* London, T. & J. Egerton 1793
Bequest of David Scott Mitchell 1907
ML 914.223/I

Collecting breadfruits & fighting the French

Matthew Flinders, Log kept on ... *Providence* vol. 1, 1791-1793
Kindly lent by Public Record Office London
ADM55/97

George Tobin, Sketch book, 1791-1811
watercolour
Purchased Truslove & Hanson London 1915
ZML PXA563

William Bligh, Sketch book, 1791-1793
watercolour
Purchased Angus & Robertson Sydney 1915
ZML PXA565

Matthew Flinders, *A Sketch of the Island of St Paul*, c. 1792, pen and ink
Bequest of Sir William Dixson 1952
DL Safe 20

Matthew Flinders, Journal kept on ... *Bellerophon*, September 1793 – July 1794
Kindly lent by National Maritime Museum Greenwich
FL1/8b

The Naval Achievements of Great Britain for the Year 1793 to 1817, London, J. Jenkins 1817
Purchased 1964
RB SC 16F

To New South Wales on *Reliance*

Unknown artist, *Sydney Cove Looking to the West*, c. 1800, oil
Purchased 1923
ZML 443

Attributed to Thomas Watling, *View of Sydney*, c. 1795-1796, watercolour
Presented by A. M. Ritchie
ZML V1/1794+/1

Unknown artist, *West View of Sydney-Cove Taken from the Rocks*, 1793-4, ink and wash
Presented by Sir William Dixson 1951
ZDGV1/14

David Collins, *An Account of the English Colony in New South Wales ...* vol. 1, London
T. Cadell Jun. and W. Davies 1798
Presented by Colonel A. E. Knox 1960
ZML *Q991/C

The *Tom Thumb* voyages

Matthew Flinders, letter to George Bass
15 February 1800
Purchased 2001
ZML MSS 7046

Unknown artist, *George Bass*, c. 1800
reproduction of oil painting no longer extant
ML P1/B

George Bass, letter to Joseph Banks, 27 May 1799
Purchased Sotheby's London 1929
Banks papers series 72.005

Matthew Flinders, Narrative of Tom Thumbs Cruize to Canoe Rivulet ...
25 March – 2 April 1796, c. 1799
Kindly lent by National Maritime Museum Greenwich
FL1/9a

Charles Grimes and Matthew Flinders
A Topographical Plan of the Settlements of New South Wales ... London, A. Arrowsmith 1799, engraving
Bequest of Sir William Dixson 1952
DL Cb79/4

There must be a strait

George Bass, letter to his mother Sarah, 1798
Purchased Christie's London 1998
Bass/Waterhouse papers
ZML MSS 6544/6

Matthew Flinders, *Chart of Terra Australis ... [Insets: Twofold Bay ... Port Dalrymple ... Furneaux's Islands ...]* ink
Kindly lent by UK Hydrographic Office Taunton
y48/9

Matthew Flinders, Narrative of an Expedition to Furneauxs Islands ... c. 1799
Presented by Anne Petrie, daughter of Matthew Flinders, 1877
Kindly lent by State Library of Victoria

George Bass, *Western Port ...* London
A. Arrowsmith, 1801, engraving
ZML M3 883/1798/1

The circumnavigation of Tasmania

Matthew Flinders, *A Chart of Bass's Strait ...* London, A. Arrowsmith, 1801, engraving
ZML M3 806p/1799/1

Matthew Flinders, *Observations on the Coasts of Van Diemen's Land ...* London, J. Nichols 1801
ZML C923

George Bass, Journal Describing Two-Fold Bay ... Furneaux's Islands ... and ... Van Dieman's Land ... c. 1799
ZML C228

David Collins, *An Account of the English Colony in New South Wales ...* vol. 2, London
T. Cadell Jun. and W. Davies 1802
Presented by Colonel A.E. Knox 1960
ZML *Q991/C

George Bass, Some Account of the Quadruped Called Wombat ... c. 1800
Purchased from Lord Brabourne by NSW Government 1884, transferred to Mitchell Library 1910
Banks papers, series 35.43

Northward to Hervey Bay

Matthew Flinders, *Chart of Terra Australis [Port Stephens ... to Hervey Bay]*
August 1804, ink
Kindly lent by UK Hydrographic Office Taunton
y48/2

Matthew Flinders, A Biographical Tribute to the Memory of Trim ... December, 1809
Kindly lent by the National Maritime Museum Greenwich
FL1/11

John Cornwell, statue of Trim, small version of statue erected outside Mitchell Library, Sydney
1995

Joseph Banks: My 'guardian genius'

Charles Dance, *Portrait of Sir Joseph Banks*
engraved by William Daniell, 1803
soft ground etching
ML P3/35

James Wiles, letter to Joseph Banks
16 March 1793
Purchased from Lord Brabourne by NSW Government 1884, transferred to Mitchell Library 1910
Banks papers series 52.14

George Shepherd, *Soho Square, London,* 1812
hand coloured etching
DG SSV99/1

John Flaxman, *Wedgwood Portrait Medallion of Joseph Banks*, 1779
white on blue jasper ware
ZP*4

Matthew Flinders, letter to Joseph Banks
6 September 1800
Purchased Sotheby's London 1929
Banks papers series 65.01

T. F. Dibdin, *Aedes Althorpianae* ...
London, 1882
Bequest of David Scott Mitchell 1907
ML Q027.1/D

Investigator

Roland Michel Laroche, ship model of HMS *Investigator* 1980
Based on detailed plans by Robert T. Sexton
Kindly lent by Powerhouse Museum Sydney

Telescope by Ramsden, c. 1790s, brass fittings with leather cover
ZML LR34

Cabin plate used on board HMS *Investigator*
silver plate
Transferred from Australian Museum, 1922
ZML R288

My love must wait

Matthew Flinders, letter to Joseph Banks
24 May 1801
Purchased from Lord Brabourne by NSW Government 1884, transferred to Mitchell Library 1910
Banks papers series 65.21

Ann Flinders, letter to Elizabeth Franklin
17 April 1801
ZML Af2/5

Unknown artist, *Portrait of Matthew Flinders*
1801, watercolour on ivory
Presented by Sir William Flinders Petrie 1922
ZML MIN 52

Unknown artist, *Portrait of Matthew Flinders*
1919, copy of 1801 miniature, watercolour on ivory
Kindly lent by Lisette Flinders Petrie

Matthew Flinders, letter to Ann Flinders
25 June 1803
Presented by Sir William Flinders Petrie 1922
ZML S1/55

Ann Flinders, *Flower Studies*, watercolours
Kindly lent by Edward King House, Lincoln, UK

Ann Flinders, letter to Matthew Flinders, 1812
Kindly lent by Lisette Flinders Petrie

Unknown artist, *Portrait of Ann Flinders, her daughter Anne and stepsister Isabella Tyler*
c. 1822 watercolour
Kindly lent by Lisette Flinders Petrie

The south coast

Matthew Flinders, Journal on *Investigator*
January 1801 – July 1802
Presented by Sir William Flinders Petrie 1922
ZML S1/24

Matthew Flinders, *Chart of the South Coast ... [Smoky Bay to Backstairs Passage]* ink
Kindly lent by UK Hydrographic Office Taunton
y53/10

Matthew Flinders, *Chart of the South Coast of Terra Australis* ... March 1811, pen and ink
Kindly lent by UK Hydrographic Office Taunton
y48/10

Ferdinand Bauer, *A Mat-rush* (*Lomandra hastilis*), c. 1805-1814 watercolour
Kindly lent by the Natural History Museum London
Bauer Botanical No. 217

Ferdinand Bauer, *Barred Bandicoot* (*Perameles bougainville*), c. 1805-1814, watercolour
Kindly lent by the Natural History Museum London
Bauer Zoological No. 4

Encounter with the French

Matthew Flinders, *[Investigator Strait to Encounter Bay]*, chart, ink
Kindly lent by UK Hydrographic Office Taunton
y50/7

Phillip Parker King, *Portrait of Nicolas Baudin*
ink sketch copied from a drawing by Nicolas-Martin Petit, c. 1802
ZML PXC767 f12

François Peron & Louis Freycinet, *Voyage de Decouvertes aux Terres Australes ... Partie Historique, Atlas*, Paris 1807
Bequest of Sir William Dixson 1952
DL Q81/13

Charles-Alexandre Lesueur (probably)
Aborigines in Front of Their Hut, c. 1801
pencil and ink
Kindly lent by Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle Le Havre France
16028

Nicolas-Martin Petit (probably), *Canoe, Maria Island, Tasmania*, c. 1802, watercolour
Kindly lent by Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle Le Havre France
18005

Geoffrey C. Ingleton, Various etchings and drawings
By kind permission of Mrs Nan Ingleton
ZML PXD148/11

Refreshment at Sydney

Samuel Smith, Journal of a Voyage on *Investigator*, copy written c. 1813
ZML C222

Unknown artist, *Portrait of Philip Gidley King*
watercolour on ivory
Acquired from King family c. 1935
ZML MIN 61

Charles-Alexandre Lesueur, *Panorama of Port Jackson*, 1802, pencil and ink
Kindly lent by Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle Le Havre France
16063.1

William Westall, *Port Jackson*, 1804
watercolour
ZML V1/1804/1

Charles Rodius, *King Bungaree* ... 1834
lithograph
ML ZPXA615 f21

William Westall, *Government House, Sydney*
1802, watercolour
Kindly lent by National Library of Australia

The east coast

Ferdinand Bauer, *White Elderberry* (*Sambucus gaudichaudiana*), c. 1805-1814, watercolour
Kindly lent by the Natural History Museum London
Bauer Botanical No. 68

Ferdinand Bauer, *Koala* (*Phascolarctos cinereus*), c. 1805-1814, watercolour
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Bauer Zoological No. 5

Ferdinand Bauer, *Rulingia hermanniifolia*,
c. 1805-1814, watercolour
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Bauer Botanical No. 15

Ferdinand Bauer, *Flindersia australis*,
c. 1805-1814, watercolour
Kindly lent by the Natural History Museum London
Bauer Botanical No. 23

Ferdinand Bauer, *Illustrationes Florae Novae Hollandiae* ... London, 1813-1816
hand coloured etchings
ML F581.99/B

Matthew Flinders, *Part of the Coast of New South Wales ... [ie Queensland: Bustard Bay to Keppel Isles]* chart, ink
Kindly lent by UK Hydrographic Office Taunton
y47/9

Gulf of Carpentaria

Matthew Flinders, Journal on *Investigator*
July 1802 – June 1803
Presented by Sir William Flinders Petrie 1922
ZML S1/25

Matthew Flinders, *A Chart of the Gulf of Carpentaria, Torres Strait and the Neighbouring Parts* ... May 1807, ink
Kindly lent by UK Hydrographic Office Taunton
y46/3

Matthew Flinders, *Part of the North Coast of Terra Australis ... [Gulf of Carpentaria]*
January 1804, chart, ink
Kindly lent by UK Hydrographic Office Taunton
y53/3

Phillip Parker King, *A Malay Fleet at Sims Island, off Arnhem Land*, 1818, watercolour
ZML PXC767 f67

Charles-Alexandre Lesueur, *Jellyfish* (*Toxorchis thalassinus*), watercolour
Kindly lent by Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle Le Havre France
70 048

Thomas Earnshaw, Marine chronometer No. 520, c. 1790-1801
brass, steel, glass and wood
Kindly lent by Powerhouse Museum Sydney

Navigation in the late eighteenth century

George Adams, Azimuth compass, c. 1780s
brass in oak case
ZML R221

J. W. Watkins, Sextant, c. 1790s
brass in wooden case
Acquired 1922
ZML R148

Paul Philip Barraud, Chronometer, c. 1800
brass on wooden base
Bequest of Sir William Dixson 1952
ZDR38

The Nautical Almanac and Astronomical Ephemeris for the Year 1801
London, T. Bensley 1801
Purchased 1992
ML 528/G

Mapping Australia

Matthew Flinders, *Australia or Terra Australis*
August 1804, chart, ink
Kindly lent by UK Hydrographic Office Taunton
y46/1

J. J. Labillardière, *Relation du Voyage à la Recherche de La Pérouse ... Atlas*, Paris
H. J. Jansen, 1800
Presented by Harriet Wenz 1962
ML X980/15B

Pedro Fernandez de Quiros, *Relacion de un Memorial* ... Pamplona, C. de Labayen, 1610
Bequest of David Scott Mitchell 1907
ML S1/5a

Hessel Gerritsz, *Beschryvinghe Vander Samojeden Landt* ... Amsterdam, H. Gerritsz 1612, 1878 facsimile, Amsterdam
Frederik Muller
Bequest of David Scott Mitchell 1907
ML 980/G

Sailing for home

Matthew Flinders, Journal on *Investigator* and *Cumberland*, June 1803 – December 1803
Kindly lent by Public Record Office, London
ADM55/78

Matthew Flinders, *The Tracks of HMS Investigator and Schooner Cumberland Through Torres Strait*, February 1804
chart, ink
Kindly lent by UK Hydrographic Office Taunton
y46/7

John Franklin, letter to his father, 26 August 1803
ZML Af1/7

William Westall, *Views of Australian Scenery* ... London, G. & W. Nicol, 1814, engravings
Bequest of Sir William Dixson 1952
DL Q81/24

G. R. Lewis, *Portrait of John Franklin*
engraving by F. C. Lewis, 1824
ML P1/F

Learning patience: Mauritius

Matthew Flinders, Private diary, 1803-1814
Presented by Sir William Flinders Petrie 1922
ZML S1/58

George Cooke, *View of Port Napoleon*, 1813
engraving
ML SSV99/MAUR/1

Chessmen used by Matthew Flinders on Mauritius
Presented by Lady Flinders Petrie 1949
ML R48

Bory de Saint-Vincent, *Voyage dans les Quatre Principales îsles des Mers d'Afrique* ...
Paris, F. Buisson 1804
Purchased 1964
RB F142

Richard Potter, Matthew Flinders' flute
London, boxwood and ivory
Kindly lent by Lisette Flinders Petrie

Matthew Flinders, *General Deductions from Experiments Relating to the Variation of the Magnetic Needle, [Printed for the Officers of the Royal Navy]* 28 January 1813
Bequest of Sir William Dixson 1952
DL Q81/41

Robert Temple, *The Town, Harbour and Country Eastward of Port Louis*, 1810
hand coloured lithograph
Kindly lent by Naval Museum Mauritius

Robert Temple, *Port Louis About One Mile Distance from the Shore*
hand coloured lithograph
Kindly lent by Naval Museum, Mauritius

Robert Temple, *View from the Deck of the Upton Castle Transport of the British Army Landing*, 1810, hand coloured lithograph
Kindly lent by Naval Museum Mauritius

Robert Temple, *The West of Port Louis from the Harbour*, 1810, hand coloured lithograph
Kindly lent by Naval Museum Mauritius

Robert Temple, *Port Louis from the Champ de Mars*, 1810, hand coloured lithograph
Kindly lent by Naval Museum Mauritius

Robert Temple, *A West View of the Moulin à Poudre, Where the British Army Halted*, 1810
hand coloured lithograph
Kindly lent by Naval Museum Mauritius

Louis Freycinet, *Voyage Autour du Monde ... Atlas Historique*, Paris, 1825
Presented by Colonel A. E. Knox 1960
ZML X980/20A

Charles Decaen

Unknown artist, *Portrait of Charles Decaen*, oil
Kindly lent by Naval Museum Mauritius

Matthew Flinders, letter to Charles-Pierre Claret, Le Compte de Fleurieu
11 March 1805
Purchased Dymocks Sydney 1916
ML A1590

George Cooke, *Scenery of the East India Islands* ... London, Longman, Hurst, Rees, Orme & Brown 1813, engravings
Bequest of Sir William Dixson 1952
DL Q81/5

Writing the story

Pressed flowers from Matthew Flinders' grave collected by Ann Flinders, 1814, 1815, 1820
Presented by Lady Flinders Petrie 1949
ML R48

Matthew Flinders, Rough draft of preface to *A Voyage to Terra Australis*, c. 1812
ZML S1/59

John Franklin, letter to Ann Flinders
14 October 1813
ML Af1/1

Oliver Nodes, Account for funeral of Matthew Flinders, 20 July 1814
Kindly lent by National Maritime Museum Greenwich
FL1/6

Unknown artist, *Silhouettes of Matthew and Ann Flinders*, 1812, ink
Kindly lent by Lisette Flinders Petrie

Gibbens of Portsmouth, Matthew Flinders' Dress Sword and Scabbard from Naval Commander's Full Dress Uniform, c. 1800
steel with ivory and gold hand piece and leather and gold scabbard
Presented by Sir William Flinders Petrie 1922
ZML LR7

Matthew Flinders' Hat from Naval Commander's Full Dress Uniform, c. 1800
velour and leather
Presented by Sir William Flinders Petrie 1922
ZML LR 24

Matthew Flinders' Sash Badge from Naval Commander's Full Dress Uniform, c. 1800, brass
Presented by Sir William Flinders Petrie 1922
ZML R146

Matthew Flinders, letter to Elizabeth Flinders
2 April 1812
Presented by Sir William Flinders Petrie 1922
ML ZS1/57

Matthew Flinders, *A Voyage to Terra Australis* ... 2 vols & atlas, London, G. & W. Nicol 1814
Bequest of Sir William Dixson 1952
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